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Programme planning

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 14
Gender equality and empowerment of women

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Overall orientation

14.1 The overall orientation of the programme, which is under the responsibility of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), is to achieve the elimination of discrimination against women and girls, the empowerment of women and the realization of equality between women and men as partners in and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. The direction of the programme is provided by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/289 establishing UN-Women as a composite entity. The proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019 is aligned with the strategic plan of UN-Women.

14.2 Also in resolution 64/289, the General Assembly set out a framework for the work of the programme drawing on the Charter of the United Nations, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including its 12 critical areas of concern, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and applicable United Nations instruments, standards and resolutions that support, address and contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is the principal international human rights treaty relating to the practical realization of equality between women and men. The General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women provide guidance for the normative support functions; the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Executive Board provide guidance for the operational activities. Intergovernmental resolutions and decisions set the women and peace and security agenda for UN-Women and the United Nations system. Driven by the principle of universality, the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, which is central to the mandate of UN-Women, is addressed across all the areas of work of the programme.

14.3 The programme contributes to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The programme supports in particular the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 5, on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, as well as of the gender dimensions of all the other Goals, through gender mainstreaming, recognizing that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are pivotal to the achievement of sustainable development in all its dimensions.

14.4 During the biennium 2018-2019, the programme is expected to continue to concentrate its efforts on the following six strategic plan goals: (a) increasing women's leadership and participation in all areas that affect their lives, including in political and economic areas; (b) increasing women's access to economic empowerment and opportunities, especially for those who are most excluded, particularly women living in poverty; (c) preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls and expanding access to survivor services; (d) increasing women's leadership in peace, security and humanitarian response; (e) strengthening the responsiveness of plans and budgets in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women at all levels; and (f) supporting the development of global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

14.5 As it delivers support in those areas, the programme will create and strengthen strategic partnerships, lead more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system and avoid duplication of work. It will provide overall leadership, strengthen mechanisms and continue to promote and enhance accountability for gender equality and the empowerment of women in the United Nations system, including by assisting United Nations entities with the implementation of the System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

14.6 The strategy for implementing the programme in the biennium 2018-2019 is centred on bringing together the normative support, coordination and operational support to ensure an even greater impact from United Nations support on implementing commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women. The achievement of the programme will result from: expanding support provided to Member States, upon their request, for the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and gender mainstreaming; strengthening coherence between the normative and operational work; and leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Subprogramme 1
Intergovernmental support, coordination and strategic partnerships

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including women's full enjoyment of their human rights

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(a) Improved decision-making by intergovernmental bodies, especially the Commission on the Status of Women, for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women	(a) (i) Percentage of Member States responding to surveys expressing satisfaction with the support provided during their sessions, with particular emphasis on the Commission on the Status of Women (ii) Increased percentage of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly that integrate gender perspectives as a result of the efforts of UN-Women
(b) Enhanced support by UN-Women for the contribution of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31	(b) Increased percentage of spaces and platforms created by UN-Women in which non-governmental organizations accredited by the Economic and Social Council to the Commission on the Status of Women have been able to contribute to intergovernmental and global policy discussions

(c) Enhanced capacity of the United Nations system entities to mainstream gender perspectives and to undertake targeted measures to empower women in policies and programmes of the United Nations system in a coherent way	(c) (i) Number of United Nations entities, supported by UN-Women, that incorporate gender perspectives into their policies and programmes
	(ii) Number of human resources policy measures advocated and/or assisted by UN-Women in United Nations system entities that incorporate gender perspectives in their implementation
(d) Enhanced partnerships for the accelerated achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment through increased awareness and an enhanced resource base	(d) (i) Increased percentage of global media coverage of UN-Women, its priorities and programmatic work, aimed at promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women
	(ii) Increased percentage of social media followers of UN-Women, its priorities and programmatic work, aimed at promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women
	(iii) Increased number of joint initiatives developed with civil society stakeholders in countries and regions that contribute globally to the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment

Strategy

14.7 The Intergovernmental Support, Coordination and Strategic Partnerships Bureau is responsible for the subprogramme. The strategy will include:

(a) Promoting actions and providing assistance to Member States, upon their request, for the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its review outcomes, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and other United Nations instruments and resolutions that support, address and contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(b) Providing substantive and effective support to intergovernmental processes, in particular the Commission on the Status of Women, by facilitating discussion on key gender equality issues by Governments and other stakeholders;

(c) Supporting intergovernmental processes to increase the reflection of gender perspectives in sectoral areas by providing innovative proposals, as appropriate;

(d) Increasing awareness and understanding of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including through educational activities, information

dissemination and outreach, using different channels, such as websites, social media and print products;

(e) Encouraging women's groups and other non-governmental organizations specializing in gender equality and women's issues to participate in intergovernmental processes, including through increased outreach, funding and capacity-building;

(f) Leading and supporting system-wide and inter-agency collaboration on gender equality and the empowerment of women through the promotion of joint action, collaboration in United Nations country teams and their gender theme groups, and facilitation of the establishment and use of accountability frameworks of the United Nations system on gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(g) Supporting cooperation among countries, as well as the mechanisms established for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, at the regional and subregional levels;

(h) Supporting the improvement of the status of women and gender balance within the United Nations system through advocacy and monitoring of progress, as well as training opportunities for United Nations officials;

(i) Building and strengthening strategic partnerships focused on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women to achieve a robust resource base.

Subprogramme 2
Policy and programme activities

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including women's full enjoyment of their human rights

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(a) Enhanced policy support by UN-Women for the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other United Nations instruments, standards and resolutions that contribute to gender equality and the empowerment and advancement of women	(a) Increased number of policies and actions taken by Member States, supported by UN-Women, to implement national commitments to global normative frameworks on gender equality
(b) Strengthened capacity of Member States to develop and implement laws, policies and strategies in order to advance gender equality and women's empowerment and to protect women's human rights	(b) Increased number of Member States, supported by UN-Women, upon their request, that adopt laws, policies and strategies to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and protect women's human rights

(c) Increased capacity of the United Nations country teams in supporting Member States, upon their request, in the implementation of commitments to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, empower women and achieve gender equality	(c) (i) Increased number of United Nations development frameworks and programmes at the country level formulated and implemented with the participation of UN-Women
	(c) (ii) Increased number of United Nations country teams that implement, with the support of UN-Women, performance indicators on gender equality and the empowerment of women

Strategy

14.8 The Policy and Programme Bureau is responsible for the subprogramme. The strategy will include:

(a) Serving as a global knowledge centre on gender equality and the empowerment of women, through research, analysis and evaluation of trends, including on new and emerging issues and their impact on the situation of women;

(b) Providing advice and support to Member States, as requested, including through field offices, to enhance capacity to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate their gender equality policies;

(c) Providing advocacy support, training and capacity development to Member States, as requested, to advance the implementation of their commitments on gender equality and empowerment of women in line with their national priorities;

(d) Leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system, including to the United Nations country and regional teams and their gender theme groups, in their work on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

34/180	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
50/42	Fourth World Conference on Women
50/203	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
54/4	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
54/134	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration

59/164	Improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system
60/1	2005 World Summit Outcome
62/136	Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas
64/289	System-wide coherence
64/293	United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons
65/1	Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals
66/130	Women and political participation
66/170	International Day of the Girl Child
67/226	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
69/147	Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls
69/149	Trafficking in women and girls
69/150	Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
70/130	Violence against women migrant workers
70/132	Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas
70/133	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
70/178	Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity
70/219	Women in development
S-23/2	Political declaration
S-23/3	Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

76 (V)	Communications concerning the status of women
304 (XI)	Report of the Commission on the Status of Women (fourth session)
1992/19	Communications on the status of women
1996/6	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women
1996/31	Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations
1999/257	Enabling the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to carry out its mandate
2005/232	Declaration of the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women
2009/16	Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women of the Commission on the Status of Women
2015/6	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women
2015/12	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
2015/13	Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

Economic and Social Council agreed conclusion and ministerial declaration

1997/2	Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (see A/52/3/Rev.1, chap. IV.A)
	Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2010 on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women (see A/65/3/Rev.1, chap. III.F)

Security Council resolutions

1325 (2000)	Women and peace and security
1820 (2008)	Women and peace and security
1888 (2009)	Women and peace and security
1889 (2009)	Women and peace and security
1960 (2010)	Women and peace and security
2106 (2013)	Women and peace and security

2122 (2013)	Women and peace and security
2242 (2015)	Women and peace and security

Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women

1996	Resolution 40/9: Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical area of concern: poverty
1996	Women and the media
1996	Child and dependent care, including sharing of work and family responsibilities
1997	Women and the environment
1997	Women in power and decision-making
1997	Women and the economy
1997	Education and training of women
1998	Violence against women
1998	Women and armed conflict
1998	Human rights of women
1998	The girl child
1999	Women and health
1999	Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
2001	Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
2001	Gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
2002	Eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle, in a globalizing world
2002	Environmental management and the mitigation of natural disasters
2003	Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women
2004	The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality
2004	Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and resolution and in post-conflict peace-building
2006	Enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work

2006	Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels
2007	Elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child
2008	Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women
2009	The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS
2011	Access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work
2013	Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls
2014	Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls
2015	Resolution 59/1: Political declaration on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women

Executive Board decisions

2011/4	Least developed countries
2012/6	Regional Architecture: administrative, budgetary and financial implications and implementation plan
2013/5	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women strategic plan, 2014-2017